

# Fiscal Note

*Fiscal Services Division*



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**HF 2324** – Computer Science Advisory Council (LSB5204HV)  
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Fiscal Note Version – New

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## **Description**

**House File 2324** creates a computer science advisory council and changes the minimum educational program by adding one unit of computer science education for grades 9 through 12 and one unit of computer coding for grades 7 and 8. The bill may contain a state mandate as defined in Iowa Code section **25B.3**.

## **Background**

The bill adds one unit of high-quality computer science education to the minimum educational program for grades 9 through 12. The bill also requires the technology education component of the minimum educational program to include one unit on computer coding for grades 7 and 8. These requirements apply to school years beginning on or after July 1, 2018.

The bill also requires the Director of the Department of Education to convene a computer science advisory council to make recommendations regarding the computer science courses, including computer science standards, guidelines for creating a kindergarten through grade 12 career pathway in computer science, and licensure and professional development for teachers. The council must submit recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 1, 2016.

## **Assumptions**

- School districts may incur costs by providing:
  - The curriculum for computer science and computer coding courses, including professional development for instructors in the computer sciences.
  - Additional staff to teach the courses.
  - Substitute teachers while teachers participate in professional development.
  - Additional computers to utilize during the courses.
- It is possible that the state may pay for the development of Iowa Learning Online courses in computer science and computer coding. This would reduce the costs to the school districts.

## **Fiscal Impact**

The fiscal impact of this bill cannot be estimated at this time. The Department of Education will incur costs related to the advisory council but has indicated that it will absorb those costs. The estimated costs to local school districts is unknown and will be determined on a district-by-district basis.

## **Sources**

Department of Education  
Iowa State Education Association  
Iowa Association of School Boards

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/s/ Holly M. Lyons

February 24, 2016

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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